

# A NEW GENERIC SYNONYM AND A NEW SPECIES OF THE GENUS *COMOCRITIS* MEYRICK (LEPIDOPTERA: YPONOMEUTIDAE)

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In the present paper *Aetherastis* Meyrick is placed as a new synonym of *Comocritis* Meyrick, and a new species of *Comocritis* is described from Formosa. The genus *Comocritis* is recorded from Formosa for the first time.

I am much indebted to Dr. Syûti Issiki, Professor Emeritus of University of Osaka Prefecture, Mr. Mamoru Owada, of University of Osaka Prefecture, and Dr. Klaus Sattler and Mr. Paul E. S. Whalley, both of the British Museum (Natural History), for allowing me to study the examples dealt with in this paper.

## *Comocritis* Meyrick

*Comocritis* Meyrick, 1894, p. 24. — Meyrick, 1914, p. 24. — Fletcher, 1928, p. 14. — Fletcher, 1929, p. 53. — Clarke, 1965, p. 307.

Type-species: *Comocritis olympia* Meyrick, 1894, by monotypy.

*Aetherastis* Meyrick, 1909, p. 422, **n. syn.** — Meyrick, 1914, p. 24. — Fletcher, 1928, p. 13. — Fletcher, 1929, p. 7. — Clarke, 1965, p. 267.

Type-species: *Aetherastis uranias* Meyrick, 1909, by monotypy.

The new synonymy of *Aetherastis* with *Comocritis* is chiefly supported by evidence from the male and female genitalia by which the two genera cannot be clearly distinguished from each other.

In the original description Meyrick wrote of *Aetherastis* as follows: "Allied to *Comocritis*, from which it differs by the stalking of 3 [ $Cu_{1a}$ ] and 4 [ $M_3$ ] of forewings and absence of vein 11 [ $R_1$ ]." However, after comparing various species of *Comocritis* and *Aetherastis* with conditions of the veins, I am inclined to think that the two cannot be properly maintained as distinct genera. The genus *Comocritis* varies widely in the venation, and the description of the genus, therefore, needs to be extended as follows:

Forewing 11- or 12-veined;  $R_2$  and  $R_3$  coincident, stalked or separated;  $M_3$  and  $Cu_{1a}$  stalked, connate or separated. Hindwing with  $M_3$  and  $Cu_{1a}$  stalked, connate or separated.

The following three species should be transferred from *Aetherastis* to *Comocritis*.

*Comocritis uranias* Meyrick, **n. comb.**

*Aetherastis uranias* Meyrick, 1909, p. 422 (Ceylon). — Meyrick, 1914, p. 24. — Fletcher, 1921, p. 134. — Fletcher, 1928, p. 14. — Fletcher, 1933, p. 36. — Clarke, 1965, p. 267, pl. 132, f. 1—1d.

*Comocritis circulata* Meyrick, **n. comb.**

*Aetherastis circulata* Meyrick, 1918, p. 190 (Trivandrum). — Fletcher, 1928, p. 14. — Clarke, 1965, p. 267, pl. 132, f. 2—2b.

*Comocritis constellata* Meyrick, **n. comb.**

*Aetherastis constellata* Meyrick, 1914, p. 129 (Ceylon). — Meyrick, 1914, p. 24. — Fletcher, 1928, p. 14. — Clarke, 1965, p. 267, pl. 132, f. 3—3b.

Although *Comocritis* has been placed in the Yponomeutidae, it requires reallocation. *Comocritis* is a peculiar genus, and, as far as I know, its near relative is not sought in the Yponomeutidae s. lat. The genitalia suggest a Gelechioid affinity by the structure of the uncus and socius.

## *Comocritis albicapilla* n. sp. (Figs. 1—6)

♂♀. 22—24 mm. Head white. Antenna whitish; scape white. Palpus whitish, infuscated on upper part. Thorax white; two pairs of dark blue dots, viz., one at base and the other at anterior 1/3; tegula with a dark blue dot at base. Legs white; fore and hind tibiae suffused with dark grey on upper side; all tarsi largely suffused with blackish-brown. Abdomen white. Forewing with  $R_2$  and  $R_3$  coincident, and with  $M_3$  and  $Cu_{1a}$

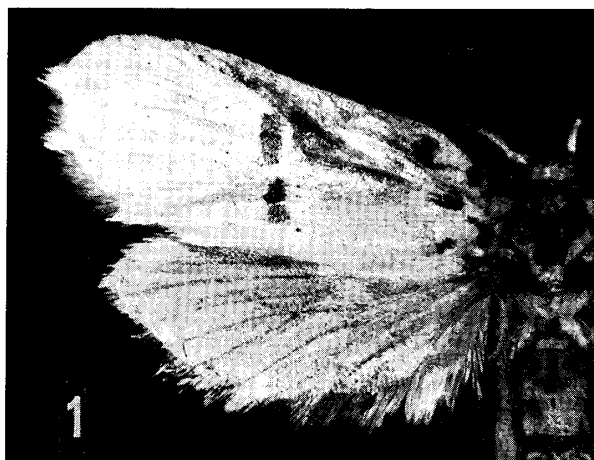


Fig. 1. *Gomocritis albicapilla* n. sp., holotype ( $\times 5$ ).

Osaka Prefecture; 1♂, labelled "FORMOSA/HUALIEN:/Juisui/5—6. VII. 1973/M. Owada," in Entom. Lab., Univ. Osaka Prefecture.

Distribution: Formosa.

Host-plant: Unknown.

Superficially similar to the Indian *C. cyanobactra* Meyrick, 1922, but considerably larger in size. The median streak on the forewing is interrupted in its middle in *albicapilla* and not interrupted in *cyanobactra*. In genitalia *albicapilla* may be easily separated from *cyanobactra* by its very broad valva and by its almost straight dorsal margin of valva.

separated; white; extreme costal edge dark fuscous towards base; basal area occupied by a group of dark blue markings, viz., a small dot on costa at base, one on costa near base, one beneath costa at 1/6, two on dorsum towards base, and one in middle near base; a deep blue narrow median strak parallel to termen, occupying nearly a median half of wing-width and interrupted in its middle; cilia white. Hindwing with  $M_3$  and  $Cu_{1a}$  connate or separated; whitish, greyish-tinged posteriorly; cilia white.

Male genitalia: as in figs. 2—4.

Female genitalia: as in figs. 5—6.

Holotype ♂, labelled "Kanshirei/Formosa/1,000 ft./21. VII. 1908/A. E. Wileman," "Wileman Coll./B.M. 1929-261," in British Museum (Nat. Hist.). Paratypes: 1♀, same data as type; 1♂, labelled "VI. 1914/Taihoku/Col. M. Maki," in Entom. Lab., Univ.

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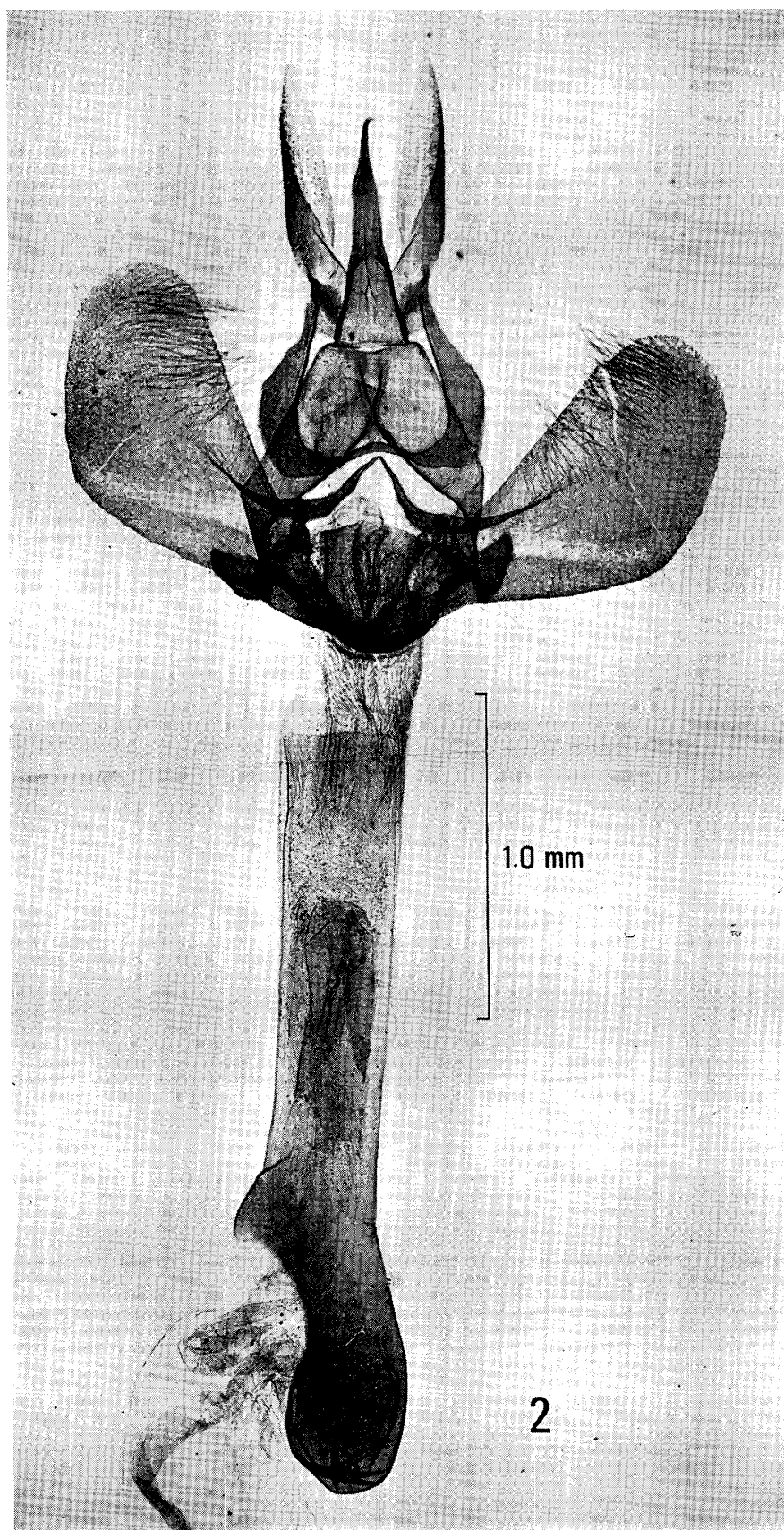
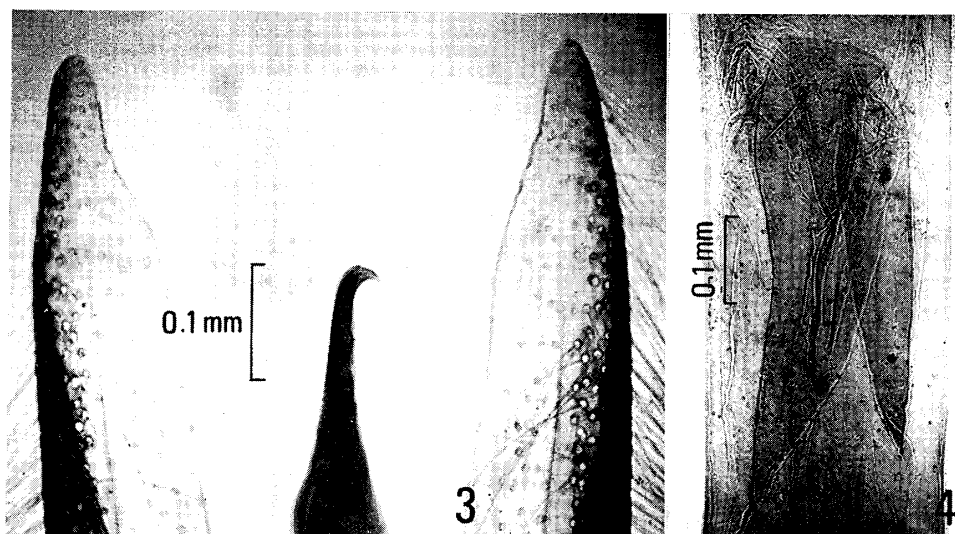
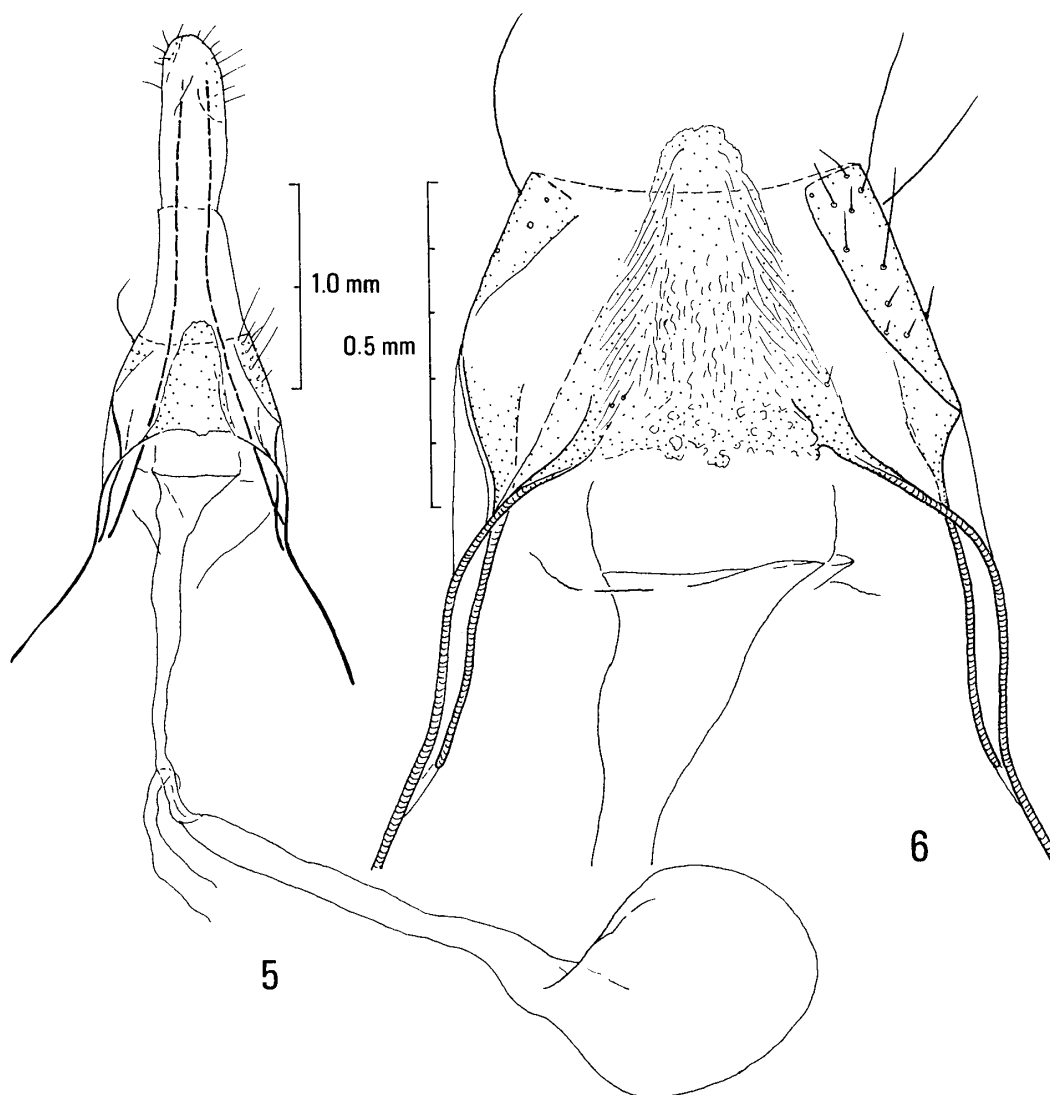


Fig. 2. *Comocritis albicapilla* n. sp., male genitalia.



Figs. 3-4. *Comocritis albicapilla* n. sp., male genitalia: (3) apical portion of uncus and socii, (4) cornuti.



Figs. 5-6. *Comocritis albicapilla* n. sp., female genitalia and the part, highly magnified.